



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 23, 2000**

# DOUGLAS MAN CONVICTED OF MULTIPLE COUNTS OF ILLEGAL ALIEN SMUGGLING

On July 25, 1999, Border Patrol agents responded to the Colwell residence in Douglas, Arizona. Agents found four illegal aliens hiding in a vehicle in front of the residence, and two illegal aliens inside of the house. At trial, it was established that Rucker Colwell Jr.'s brother, William Boyd Colwell, was working for an alien smuggler in Agua Prieta, Sonora, and Rucker Colwell Jr. conspired with his brother to harbor illegal aliens at the Colwell residence, until they could be transported north. Prior to the arrest of the Colwell brothers, the Colwell residence was an active staging point in Douglas for the transportation of illegal aliens between Agua Prieta, Sonora, and Phoenix, Arizona. William Boyd Colwell was convicted of the same criminal counts, as his brother, in a bench trial held on January 25, 2000, before U.S. District Court Judge Raner M. Collins.

Sentencing for Rucker A. Colwell, Jr. is scheduled for April 25, 2000, and sentencing for William Boyd Colwell is scheduled for May 5, 2000. both before U.S. District Court Judge Raner M. Collins.

The investigation that led to the successful prosecutions was conducted by agents from the United States Border Patrol. The prosecution was handled by Jane Westby and George Abney, Assistant United States Attorneys, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-99-1122-TUC-RCC RELEASE #: 2000-023  
# # #